(c) whether there has been a substantial decline in the export of tea in recent months;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase tea production and to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The quantity of tea produced in the country in each of the quarters during the last two years is as follows:-

(Qty :M. Kgs.)

	1990	*1991*
Ist Quarter	54.47	58.67
II nd Quarter	200.91	204.63
III rd Quarter	268.30	282.89
IV Quarter	190.98	195.52
	714.66	741.71

* Estimated

Quarterwise break up of the countrywise exports will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange from total export of tea during 1990-91 was estimated at Rs.1070.15crores. The amount of foreign exchange from the total export of tea in the ten months, April '91 to January '92 is estimated at Rs. 1014.30 crores as against Rs. 984.96 during the same period last years.

(c) There has been no decline in the exports during April-91 to January-92 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes for increasing tea production. These schemes provide for long-term loan, subsidy and grant-in-aid for the purpose of new planting, replanting, rejuvenation, creation of irrigation facilities, procurement of processing machineries etc. In order to encourage tea export, various export incentives are granted to exporters in addition to promotional campaigns and schemes undertaken by the Tea Board to popularise Indian Tea abroad.

[*Translation*]

Underinvoicing of Imports

6079. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Underinvoicing of Imports on rise" appearing in "Financial Express" dated December 11, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Government have

taken steps to check these irregularities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the frauds in import-invoicing noticed by the Government during the current year so far; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). A critical scruitiny of the value of imported goods by assessing officers is conducted at the time of assessment. Besides, specialised agencies such as Special Intelligence and Investigation Branches and Special valuation cells within the Customs House, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Enforcement Directorate collect intelligence/ information regarding under-invoicing and investigate such cases.

(d) and (e). Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Rise in Prices of Polyester Yarn

6080. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in last six months there was a spurt in the prices of polyester yarn;

(b) if so, the prices of polyester yarn in the beginning f financial year 1991-92 and the prices prevailing in the month of December, 1991,

(c) whether the Government have found out the reasons for rise in prices of these yarn; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise is view of (a) above.

Production of Cotton

6081. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Textile Exports may Nosedive: Millowners" appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dt. January 16, 1992;

(b) if so, whether there is heavy fall in the production of cotton yarn during the yeàr 1991-92;

(c) the reasons for the decline in production;

(d) the estimated production of cotton yarn during the current year;

(e) whether the production of cloth is also likely to fall due to this reason;

(f) if so, the estimated production of cloth after this fall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Estimated production of cotton yarn during the current year is 1490 million kgs. in the year 1991-92.